

ACRPC

update

December 2015

Safe Winter Driving in Vermont

Safe Roads at Safe Speeds. During the winter months, Vermont’s Snow and Ice Control Plan calls for “safe roads at safe speeds” – NOT “bare roads”. That means that during a storm, roads are plowed, sanded and salted to keep them open for traffic and provide a safe surface on which to travel, though road surfaces may be snow covered at times during the storm. Roads will be returned to bare pavement only when the storm is over. Drivers must be responsible for driving their vehicles according to conditions, which includes reducing speeds as needed to ensure safe travel. Note that this policy means that there

will often be snow covered roads during a storm. As most travel occurs daily between the hours of 4 a.m. until 10 p.m., a majority of Vermont’s resources are deployed during that time frame. Motorists should anticipate reduced coverage and varying road conditions at night and drive accordingly.

Snow and Ice Control. VTrans uses a time tested approach to maintaining Vermont’s roads in winter, which includes using carefully calibrated equipment to spread a measured amount of salt early in the storm, and as necessary throughout, to prevent the snow and ice from bonding to the road. The end result is our ability to achieve bare pavement much sooner after a storm has ended.

Anti-Icing. Just prior to a storm, VTrans equipment may be seen spraying a liquid onto the road surface. This practice is known as “anti-icing” with salt brine. Salt brine is a 23% mixture of salt and water that will dry within about 45 minutes, leaving a thin, white film of salt that is ready to start working when the first snowflakes fall.

Pre-wetting. Pre-wetting refers to the application of liquids onto salt as it is applied to the road surface. Liquids can include salt brine, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, or a blend. The benefits of pre-wetting include keeping solid materials on the pavement, increase salt activation efficiency, melt snow and ice at lower working temperatures, and melt snow and ice with less salt.

For the latest information on road conditions, weather, construction, accidents or major delays, dial 511 or log on to www.511vt.gov.

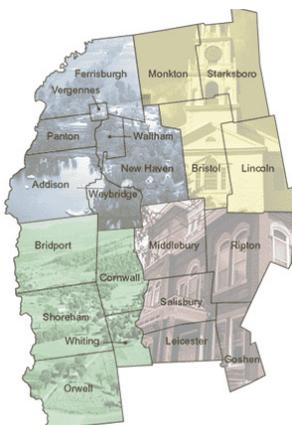
This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.

Commission Calendar

December 2015

9	7:30pm	Full Commission Meeting
17	7:00pm	ACSWMD Meeting
23	6:30pm	Executive Board Meeting (if called)
	NOTE:	ACRPC Office Closed on Friday, January 1st, 2016
	NOTE:	No December TAC Meeting!

Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.



Addison County Regional Planning Commission
14 Seminary Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: 802.388.3141
Fax: 802.388.0038

Grants, Events & Workshops

ACT 64 BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES!

Save the date, December 15th.

The second Act 64 Brown Bag Lecture Series will take place on December 15, 2015 11:30am-12:30pm. This event is free and open to the public.

The topic is “The Clean Water Initiative for Municipalities,” presented by Kari Dolan of the Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation Clean Water Initiative Program.

If you plan to attend in person the presentation will take place in the Winooski Room at the Department of Environmental Conservation, located at National Life.

- To view the presentation via webinar, please follow this link: tinyurl.com/CWI-BrownBag-2
- You can view the schedule of speakers here: <http://tinyurl.com/CWI-BrownBag-Flyer>

Brown Bag Lecture Series Schedule Now Live!

Act 64 - the Vermont Clean Water Act - is an all-encompassing law that will protect, maintain, enhance, and restore Vermont’s waterways over time. The new law has created new regulations that municipalities, farmers, business owners, and citizens will need to comply with.

To help with this transition the Clean Water Initiative Program has scheduled a once-a-month brown bag lecture series to answer questions related to Act 64. These talks will dive into the actions needed to comply with the new and enhanced regulations, as well as provide a background on why these actions are important.

You can access the schedule online at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/CWI-BrownBag-Flyer>.

These webinars are free and open to the public for viewing at the National Life building in Montpelier, or online via webinar. If you are unable to attend, the webinars will also be posted to the Clean Water Vermont YouTube page, where they can be accessed at any time.

The first webinar of the series took place on November 19th and you can view it here: <https://youtu.be/6d-Ie4ywZSQ>

Also, if you are on Facebook, check out the Clean Water Vermont page. Give it a “like” to see what’s going on!

Project Year 2016 Aquatic Nuisance Control Grants

DEC – Watershed Management Division

These grants provide financial assistance to municipalities and agencies of the state for aquatic nuisance species management programs. Grant awards are made to priority projects to the extent funds are available. First priority is to projects designed to manage new infestations of aquatic nuisances. Second priority is to projects to prevent or control the further spread of aquatic nuisance species. Third priority is to recurring maintenance projects. A grant for 75% or less of the total estimated project cost may be awarded. Grant recipients must contribute at least 25% of the final eligible project cost through in-kind labor (unpaid personnel), in-kind services and/or actual cash expenditures (all from non-state sources). If federal funds are awarded, the match requirement may be greater than 25%. Only in-kind match accrued in the grant project year is eligible. If a grant is awarded, up to 90 days of pre-award costs are allowable.

The 2016 application and instructions are available on line at: <http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/grants.htm>

You may also contact Ann Bove directly at 802.490.6120 or ann.bove@vermont.gov to request an application. For a project to be considered for funds in 2016, a completed application package should be submitted in electronic format (Portable Document Format preferred), clearly marked, and emailed to David Pasco (david.pasco@vermont.gov) by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, February 3, 2016.

Grants, Events & Workshops

VTrans and ACCD announce \$200k in planning funds to increase transportation options that build vibrant community centers

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) are pleased to announce the second round of the Strong Communities, Better Connections (SCBC) Grant Program, aimed at supporting vibrant community centers and increasing town and regional transportation options. Annually, the program grants approximately \$200,000 in planning funds to help cities and towns (outside of Chittenden County) build more livable, walkable and strong communities. Grant Applications are due January 15, 2016 with all applicants required to participate in a pre-application meeting with SCBC Program Managers prior to December 18, 2015.

“We know how critical transportation is to the economic vitality and overall health of our communities,” said Transportation Secretary Chris Cole. “By providing resources to communities to better plan their public infrastructure that also supports economic development at the community level, we are empowering communities to imagine and build their own future.”

“This exciting agency partnership is helping our transportation system serve the needs of more people while fostering economic vitality for our businesses and communities,” said Housing and Community Development Commissioner Noelle MacKay.

Last year’s pilot round of the SCBC Grant Program funded three projects that are in progress: Mad River Valley Towns (Warren, Waitsfield) are developing a multi-town plan for walking, biking and active recreation in the valley; the Towns of Rutland and West Rutland are developing a plan to create and enhance opportunities to bike, walk, live and work along the US Route 4 corridor; and the City of Vergennes is developing a master plan to improve the biking and walking connections between the downtown and Basin Harbor.

For more information, contact Jackie Cassino, at 802-272-2368 or Richard Amore at 802-828-5229 and visit the grant website <http://vtransplanning.vermont.gov/programs/scbc>.

Grant Timeline

Dec. 18 & 19, 2015	Pre-application Meeting Deadline
January 15, 2016	Application Deadline
February 19, 2016	Award Decisions
March 25, 2016	VTrans Grant Agreement Due
May 27, 2016	Consultant Procurement Due
January 27, 2017	Mid-project Report Due
September 1, 2017	Project Completion & All Funds Spent
September 29, 2017	Project Close-out Report & Final Project Reports Due

Required Agricultural Practices Draft Rules – Public Comment Period

The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets has released the Draft Required Agricultural Practices Rules for public review and comment. These rules, called for under the Vermont Clean Water Quality Act (A.64) passed this year, will replace Accepted Agricultural Practices (AAPs), as exempted from local regulation under Chapter 117. The Agency is required to adopt RAPs rules by July 1, 2016, to include requirements for small farm certification, nutrient management and storage, soil health, buffer zones, livestock exclusion, and tile drainage. Beginning on July 1, 2017, small farms will be required to certify compliance with the RAPs.

The initial public comment period on the draft RAPs rules will run through December 18, 2015.

Public comments can be submitted by e-mail to:
AGR.RAP@vermont.gov

Or can be submitted in writing to:
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
Attn: RAPs
116 State Street
Montpelier, Vt 05620-2901

Grants, Events & Workshops

More information is available on the agency's website:

- <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/node/1166> (press release)
- <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap>

Citizens' Institute on Rural Design: 2016-2017 Request for Proposals

The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design 2016-2017 Request for Proposals is open to rural communities facing design challenges, from Main Street revitalization to art-based community development. CIRDD will select up to six communities, with populations 50,000 or less, to host a two-and-a-half-day design workshop aimed at solving local design challenges and planning for the future. Selected communities receive a CIRDD stipend of \$10,000 dollars and in-kind professional assistance to organize the workshop and follow up activities. The workshops are interdisciplinary and feature a wide range of design, planning, and creative placemaking professionals, bringing together local leaders from non-profits, community organizations, and government agencies to develop actionable solutions to a community's pressing design challenges. To apply and learn more, visit here: <http://rural-design.org/>. The application deadline is January 12, 2016.

Vermont Watershed Grants

Vermonters have an opportunity to protect and restore watersheds through the Vermont Watershed Grants Program. Half of the proceeds derived from the sale of the Vermont Conservation License Plate go towards funding the Vermont Watershed Grants Program. The Program, co-administered by DEC and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, distributes grant dollars for noteworthy local and regional water-related projects within Vermont. The other half of proceeds derived from the Conservation License Plate go towards helping the Vermont Non-Game and Natural Heritage Program.

Grant funds are available for water-related projects that:

- Protect or restore fish and wildlife habitats;
- Protect or restore water quality, and shorelines;
- Reduce phosphorus loading and/or sedimentation as part of DEC's Clean Water Initiative Program objectives;
- Enhance recreational use and enjoyment;
- Identify and protect historic and cultural resources;
- Educate people about watershed resources; or
- Monitor fish and wildlife populations and/or water quality.

Who May Apply: Municipalities, local or regional governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and citizen groups are eligible to receive Watershed Grants for work on public or private lands. Individuals and state and federal agencies are not eligible to receive funds directly, but may be partners of a project. Visit our website for lists of funded watershed grant projects between 1998-2012.

Watershed grant awards are made up to \$10,000, depending on project category type. Category types and the maximum grant amount for each project category are as follows:

- Education and outreach: up to \$5,000
- Planning, assessment, inventory, monitoring: up to \$3,500
- On-the-ground implementation: up to \$10,000

Watershed Grants Program dollars are intended for complete projects or for discreet, identifiable portions of larger projects. Grant awards are made on an annual cycle, with applications due in the fall of the year and funding decisions made the following mid-winter. The 2016 Project Year grant application deadline is Friday, November 20, 2015. The online application and additional information is available here: http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/lakes/html/lp_watershedgrants.htm.

Grants, Events & Workshops

Forest Service Grant Opportunity: Community Forest Program

The USDA Forest Service is seeking applications for the Community Forest program. The Community Forest Program provides financial assistance grants to local governments, non-profit organizations, and federally recognized tribes to establish community forests that provide defined public benefits. Projects considered for this funding opportunity must include:

- Lands with at 75% forested cover
- Provide public access
- At least 5 acres in size
- Threaten by conversion to a non-forest use
- Provide economic and ecological benefits to the community
- Community engagement in the development of a community forest plan
- A 50% non-federal funding match

Additional requirements are outlined in the attached request for applications and summarized in the fact sheet. Applications are due to State Foresters and Tribal officials on January 15, 2016. Please note: entities submitting applications must submit an email to communityforest@fs.fed.us confirming an application has been sent to the State Forester or Tribal official. For additional information, visit here: www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/cfp

Working Lands Enterprise Board Announces Upcoming Grant Availability

The Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB) is pleased to announce the availability of over \$500,000 in grant funds for the 2016 program year. The application period opened on October 1, 2016, with grants targeting essential, catalytic investments in Vermont's farm and forest economy. Grants will be available to Vermont agriculture and forest sector businesses, as well as service providers that provide the critical technical assistance needed for business growth.

The two investment areas are as follows:

1. Business Investments

Projects may include, but are not limited to: Infrastructure (project-specific planning, permitting, and/or engineering/architectural plans; and/or building and equipment costs); Marketing (accessing new markets and securing new customers); Research and Development (testing new systems or technologies or developing innovative solutions). Projects focused on scaling up to meet new market opportunities are encouraged. Working capital is an eligible use of funds.

2. Service Provider Investments

Projects should show direct impacts on Vermont Working Lands businesses. Types of technical assistance provided may include: Scaling up; Market development, marketing plans, and sales; Business and financial planning; Succession planning; Access to capital; Manufacturing efficiencies or process flow.

The Working Lands funds are administered by the Vermont Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB), an impact investment organization whose mission is to grow the economies, cultures, and communities of Vermont's working landscape by making essential, catalytic investments in critical leverage points of the Vermont farm and forest economy, from individual enterprises to industry sectors. The WLEB began operations in August 2012 and to date has awarded over \$3 million in grant funds to 110 grantees, leveraging an additional \$4.3 million of matching and outside funds. The WLEB looks forward to continuing this impressive track record in Fiscal Year 2016.

Letters of intent are due Friday, December 4th.

For more information, visit <http://workinglands.vermont.gov/>, or contact Noelle Sevoian, Working Lands Specialist, at Working.Lands@vermont.gov or 802-585-9072.